

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-2 are amended and Claims 3-7 added. Support for the amendments and newly presented claims are provided in the originally filed application, such as Figures 1-5D. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits no new material is presented herein.

Specification

Applicant has amended the Specification herein merely to correct informalities therein.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities therein. Claims 1-2 have been amended responsive to the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended responsive to the rejection. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-7 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,497,514 to Moriya et al. (Moriya). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an inside door handle device of an automobile including a handle case connected with an operation handle, the handle case including a recess defined therein, ***the recess being partitioned by a wall extending vertically from a bottom surface of the recess***; a cover body; a fixing portion that secures the handle case to a

body of the automobile, wherein the cover body is elastically engaged and fixed to the bottom surface of the recess; ***a hollow portion formed on the wall extending vertically from the bottom surface of the recess; an engaging step portion formed in a bottom wall of the hollow portion***; and an engaging leg formed in and extending from the cover body, the engaging leg including: an engaging portion extending in an up and down direction from a plate-shaped main body portion of the cover body, wherein an end portion of the engaging portion elastically engages the engaging step portion; and a hooking protrusion capable of being hooked from above, accommodated in the hollow portion during an engaged state with the engaging step portion.

Applicant respectfully submits Moriya fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1.

For example, Applicant respectfully notes the opening or recess (51) of the handle case (50) does not have a bottom surface. Accordingly, Applicant further notes Moriya cannot have a wall extending vertically from the bottom surface of the recess since there is no such bottom surface. Also, the hollow (56) taught by Moriya (as characterized by the Office Action) is formed in a wall (52) extending from the handle case (50) downward into the recess and is not formed in a wall extending vertically from a bottom surface of the recess. In fact, Applicant submits the downwardly extending wall (52) does not even meet or otherwise engage a bottom surface of the recess (51). Furthermore, Moriya cannot have an engaging step portion formed in a bottom wall of the hollow (56).

In short, Applicant respectfully submits Moriya fails to disclose or suggest at least the features discussed above that are recited in Claim 1.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each and every feature recited by a rejected claim. As explained above, Moriya fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits Claim 1 is not anticipated by Moriya. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits Claim 1 should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, respectively, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of Claims 1-7, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107355-00116.**

Respectfully submitted,

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